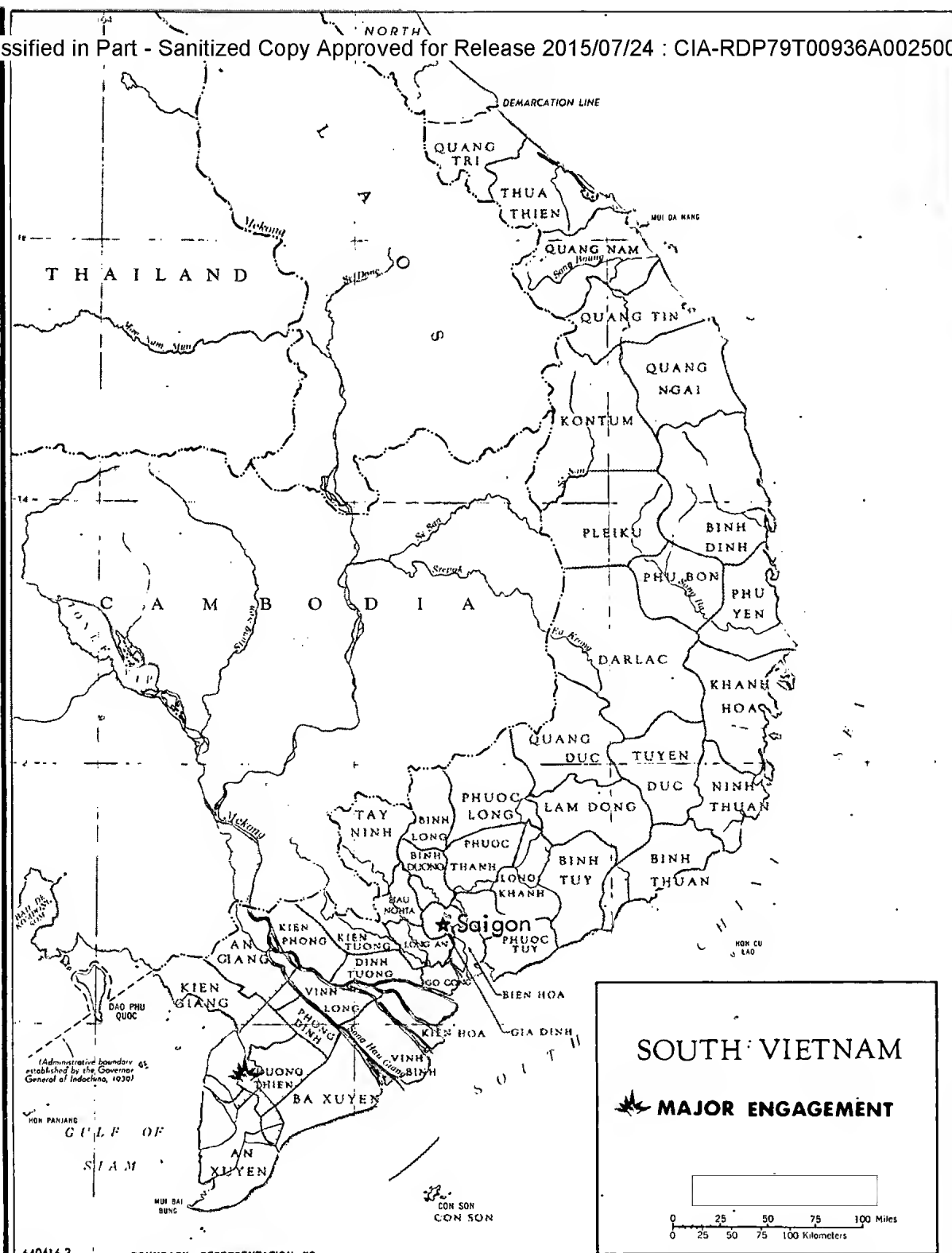


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

17 APRIL 1964
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

a. The sustained action which began on Sunday and lasted into yesterday was the first of its kind in the delta.

b. At least two regular Viet Cong battalions and the equivalent of seven government battalions were committed.

c. Casualties were high. As of Tuesday, government losses were put over 300, including 131 dead or missing. Fifty-nine Viet Cong dead had been counted by that time.

d. The operation was obviously carefully planned in advance by the Viet Cong. Being in one of their traditional strongholds, they were well supplied.

e. Government forces were at the end of a long supply line and several units ran out of ammunition. In general, however, they apparently fought well.

2. Cyprus

a. There has been no significant change in the Cyprus situation. The number of incidents seems to have dropped off, temporarily at least.

(Cont'd)

b. U Thant is still struggling with the problem of getting the Turkish Army contingent to relinquish its hold on the Nicosia-Kyrenia road.

c. Tuomioja is in Ankara trying to persuade the Turks to place their contingent under Gyani's command, although not as an integral part of the UN force.

d. This done, the UN would take over patrolling the road. The Turkish contingent would then move well off to the side, although it would remain in the area. It would not be ordered back to camp.

3. Khrushchev's Birthday

a. Khrushchev's 70th birthday celebrations today are apparently to be kept in low key--deliberately so to contrast with the virtual deification of Stalin when he turned 70.

c. As expected, high-level delegations from all the Communist states supporting Moscow are on hand. Also as expected, delegations from China and Albania are not.

For The President Only - Top Secret

4. Brazil

a. Most of President Castello Branco's centerist-conservative cabinet ministers are competent, pro-Western technicians with long experience in their fields.

b. Holdovers from Mazzilli's interim cabinet include Foreign Minister Leitao da Cunha, Finance Minister Bulhoes, and War Minister Costa e Silva.

c. A number of the appointees are closely associated with Governor Lacerda and other governors involved in the anti-Goulart movement.

5. Common Market

a. The EEC Council has again been unable to resolve the politically charged issue of unified grain prices.

b. The Germans are still firm against lowering theirs and are likely to stay that way.

c. De Gaulle has said he sees little chance for the Kennedy Round negotiations next month until this problem is solved. In other words, he is determined to gain access to the West German agricultural market before he gives on anything else.

(Cont'd)

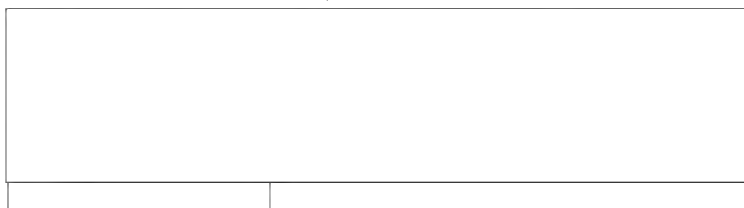
d. In his television speech yesterday, which was largely devoted to rebuttal of press attacks on his military and foreign aid programs, he indirectly underscored this point.

6. Somalia-
Ethiopia

a. Somalia is beginning to dismiss the volunteer forces recruited earlier for use against Ethiopia.

b. Action is also being deferred on previously authorized enlistment of some 2,000 regulars.

c. The reason is probably as much an inability to provide maintenance as it is a desire to show that Somalia is doing its part to comply with the cease-fire.



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NOTES

- A. De Gaulle The French press reports De Gaulle successfully underwent a prostate operation this morning. There has been no official announcement.
- B. Syria Government claims to be in full control following Wednesday's disturbances seem superficially true. The Baathist regime adds to its enemies day by day, however, and our embassy believes the military will not stand behind it forever.
- C. South Korea university students in Seoul are planning demonstrations this weekend against Kim Chong-pil, against government corruption, and against excessive police interest in their activities. Late press reports say the show has already started, so far at least without major incident.
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- E. Laos The three-way meetings in the Plaine des Jarres are supposed to begin today. Souvanna says they are his "final" try at making his government work.

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